--19. (Amended) The digital processing method as set forth in Claim 17, further comprising a step of

recognizing, based on the received response, the rate control of the unit.

A7 Cont'd

--20. (Amended) The digital signal processing method as set forth in Claim 19, further comprising a step of

controlling the data transmission rate in accordance with the rate control of the unit recognized based on the received response.--

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 remain in the application and have been amended hereby.

As will be noted from the Declaration, Applicant is a citizen and resident of Japan and this application originated there.

Accordingly, the claims are amended to place them in better condition for examination.

Attached hereto is a version with markings to show changes made to the abstract and claims by the current amendment.

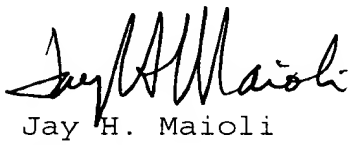
The Office is hereby authorized to charge any additional

fees which may be required in connection with this Preliminary Amendment and to credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

If a telephone interview could advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney.

An early and favorable examination on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
COOPER & DUNHAM LLP



Jay H. Maioli
Reg. No. 27,213

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The Abstract has been amended as follows:

There are provided in a rate control command a clock rate select subfunction (SYNC SELECT) to which a digital signal receiver side corresponds, a base rate subfunction (BASE CONFIGURE), a flow rate control (FLOW CONTROL) subfunction, and a capability inquiry subfunction (CAPABILITY INQUIRY). The CAPABILITY INQUIRY subfunction is used to send to a transmitter side a clock rate select state (SYNC SELECT), base rate set state (BASE CONFIGURE), and flow rate control state (FLOW CONTROL). Thereby, a digital signal can be transmitted between specific units positively and successfully.

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-20 have been amended as follows.

1. (Amended) A digital signal processor connected via a predetermined transmission line to a unit whose data transmission

rate can be at least extermally controlled [at least from outside], the digital signal processor comprising:

generating means for generating a command for making an inquiry to the unit connected via the predetermined transmission line as to [its] a rate [controllability] control of the unit;

transmitting means for transmitting the command [to] via the predetermined transmission line; and

receiving means for receiving a response to the transmitted command.

2. (Amended) The digital signal processor as set forth in Claim 1, wherein the rate control of the unit includes a synchronous control, a base data transmission rate control, and a variable rate control for fine adjustment of [the] a base data transmission rate.

3. (Amended) The digital signal processor as set forth in Claim 1, further comprising

recognizing means for recognizing, based on the received response, the rate [controllability] control of the unit.

4. (Amended) The digital signal processor as set forth in Claim 3, further comprising

control means for controlling the transmission rate [correspondingly to] in accordance with the rate [controllability] control of the unit[, having been] recognized based on the received response.

5. (Amended) A digital signal processor connected via a predetermined transmission line to a unit whose data transmission rate can be at least externally controlled [at least from outside], the digital signal processor comprising:

receiving means for receiving command for inquiry of [the] a rate [controllability] control transmitted from the unit via the predetermined transmission line;

examining means for examining, based on the command, [its own] the rate [controllability] control of the digital signal processor; and

sending means for sending back [the] a result of the examination.

6. (Amended) The digital signal processor as set forth in Claim 5, wherein the rate control includes a synchronous control,

a base data transmission rate control, and a variable rate control for fine adjustment of [the] a base data transmission rate.

7. (Amended) A digital signal processing system comprising:

a first digital signal processor connected via a predetermined transmission line to a unit whose data transmission rate can be at least externally controlled [at least from outside], the first digital signal processor including:

generating means for generating a command for making an inquiry to the unit connected via the predetermined transmission line as to [its] a rate [controllability] control of the unit;

transmitting means for transmitting the command [to] via the predetermined transmission line; and

first receiving means for receiving a response to the transmitted command; and

a second digital signal processor connected via the predetermined transmission line to the unit, the second digital signal processor including:

second receiving means for receiving a command for

inquiry of [the] a rate [controllability] control transmitted from the unit via the predetermined transmission line;

examining means for examining, based on the command, [its own] the rate [controllability] control of the second digital signal processor; and

sending means for sending back [the] a result of the examination.

8. (Amended) The digital signal processing system as set forth in Claim 7, wherein [the] rate control includes a synchronous control, a base data transmission rate control, and a variable rate control for fine adjustment of [the] a base data transmission rate.

9. (Amended) The digital signal processing system as set forth in Claim 7, further comprising

recognizing means for recognizing, based on the received response, the rate [controllability] control of the unit.

10. (Amended) The digital signal processing system as set forth in Claim 9, further comprising

control means for controlling the data transmission rate

[correspondingly to] in accordance with the rate [controllability] control of the unit[, having been] recognized based on the received response.

11. (Amended) A digital signal processing method for a unit connected via a predetermined transmission line to a [unit whose] digital signal processor, where a data transmission rate of the unit can be at least externally controlled [at least from outside], the method comprising steps of:

generating a command for making an inquiry to the unit connected via the predetermined transmission line as to [its] the rate [controllability] control of the unit;

transmitting the command [to] via the predetermined transmission line; and

receiving a response to the transmitted command.

12. (Amended) The digital signal processing method as set forth in Claim 11, wherein the rate control includes a synchronous control, a base data transmission rate control, and a variable rate control for fine adjustment of [the] a base data transmission rate.

13. (Amended) The method as set forth in Claim 11, further comprising a step of

recognizing, based on the received response, the rate [controllability] control of the unit.

14. (Amended) The digital signal processing method as set forth in Claim 13, further comprising a step of

controlling the data transmission rate [correspondingly to] in accordance with the rate [controllability] control of the unit[, having been] recognized based on the received response.

15. (Amended) A digital signal processing method for a unit connected via a predetermined transmission line to a [unit whose] digital signal processor, where a data transmission rate of the unit can be at least externally controlled [at least from outside], the method comprising steps of:

receiving a command for inquiry of [the] a rate [controllability] control transmitted from the unit via the predetermined transmission line;

examining, based on the command, [its own] the rate [controllability] control of the digital signal processing; and

sending back [the] a result of the examination.

16. (Amended) The digital signal processing method as set forth in Claim 15, wherein the rate control includes a synchronous control, a base data transmission rate control, and a variable rate control for fine adjustment of [the] a base data transmission rate.

17. (Amended) A digital signal processing method for a unit connected via a predetermined transmission line to a [unit whose] digital signal processor, where a data transmission rate of the unit can be at least externally controlled [at least from outside], comprising:

a first digital signal processing procedure including steps of:

generating a command for making an inquiry to the unit connected via the predetermined transmission line as to [its] the rate [controllability] control of the unit;

transmitting the command [to] via the predetermined transmission line; and

receiving a response to the transmitted command; and

a second digital processing procedure including steps of:

receiving a command for inquiry of [the] a rate [controllability] control transmitted from the unit via the

predetermined transmission line;

examining, based on the command, [its own] the rate [controllability] control of a second digital signal processor; and

sending back [the] a result of the examination.

18. (Amended) The digital signal processing method as set forth in Claim 17, wherein [the] rate control includes a synchronous control, a base data transmission rate control, and a variable rate control for fine adjustment of [the] a base data transmission rate.

19. (Amended) The digital processing method as set forth in Claim 17, further comprising a step of

recognizing, based on the received response, the rate [controllability] control of the unit.

20. (Amended) The digital signal processing method as set forth in Claim 19, further comprising a step of

controlling the data transmission rate [correspondingly to] in accordance with the rate [controllability] control of the unit[, having been] recognized based on the received response.